



# Grain Transportation Report

*A weekly publication of the  
Transportation and Marketing Programs/Transportation Services Branch  
[www.ams.usda.gov/tmdtsb/grain](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmdtsb/grain)*

**June 9, 2005**

## Contents

### **Grain Transportation Indicators**

### **Rail Transportation**

### **Barge Transportation**

### **Truck Transportation**

### **Grain Exports**

### **Ocean Transportation**

### **Brazil Transportation**

### **Contacts and Links**

### **Subscription Information**

-----

**The next  
release is  
June 16, '05**

June 12-14, '05	15th Annual Ethanol Producers and Consumers Conference	Cody, WY	406-785-3722
June 16-25, '05	122nd Annual American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) Convention	Seattle, WA	703-837-8140
June 25-30, '05	Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) Annual Meeting	Big Sky, MT	309-736-0120
June 27, '05	National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) 16th Annual State of Logistics Report	Washington, DC	703-524-5011
June 28-July 1, '05	21st Annual International Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Expo	Kansas City, MO	719-942-4353
July 8-9, 2005	Transportation Research Board (TRB) Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) Conference	Boston, MA	202-334-2907
July 10-12, '05	30th Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight and International Trade Conference	Boston, MA	202-334-2934
Aug. 8-10, '05	Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, 100th Annual Convention	Victoria, TX	281-996-6915
Sept. 9-10, '05	National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Board of Directors Meeting	Coeur d' Alene, ID	202-289-0873
Sept. 14-15, '05	National Waterways Conference, Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA	703-243-4090
Sept. 14-16, '05	Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association, 2005 River and Marine Industry Seminar	New Orleans, LA	985-783-6605
Sept. 14-16, '05	66th Annual American Trucking Association (ATA) Convention and Trade Show	Missoula, MT	406-442-6600
Sept. 19-21, '05	2005 American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Expo	Kansas City, MO	703-524-0810
Oct. 18-20, '05	Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference	Biloxi, MS	662-328-3286

# Grain Transportation Indicators

**Table 1--Grain transport cost indicators\***

Week ending	Truck	Rail	Barge	Ocean
06/08/05	150	70	129	Gulf 239 Pacific 193
<b>Compared with last week</b>	↑	↓	↓	↓ ↑

\*Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel (\$/gallon); rail = nearby secondary rail market (\$/car);

barge = spot Illinois River basis (index = percent of tariff rate); and ocean = routes to Japan (\$/metric ton)

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Table 2--Market update: U.S. origins to export position price spreads (\$/bushel)**

Commodity	Origin--destination	6/3/2005	5/27/2005
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.48	-0.49
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.59	-0.57
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-0.74	-0.68
HRW	KS--Gulf	-0.90	-0.83
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.43	-1.48

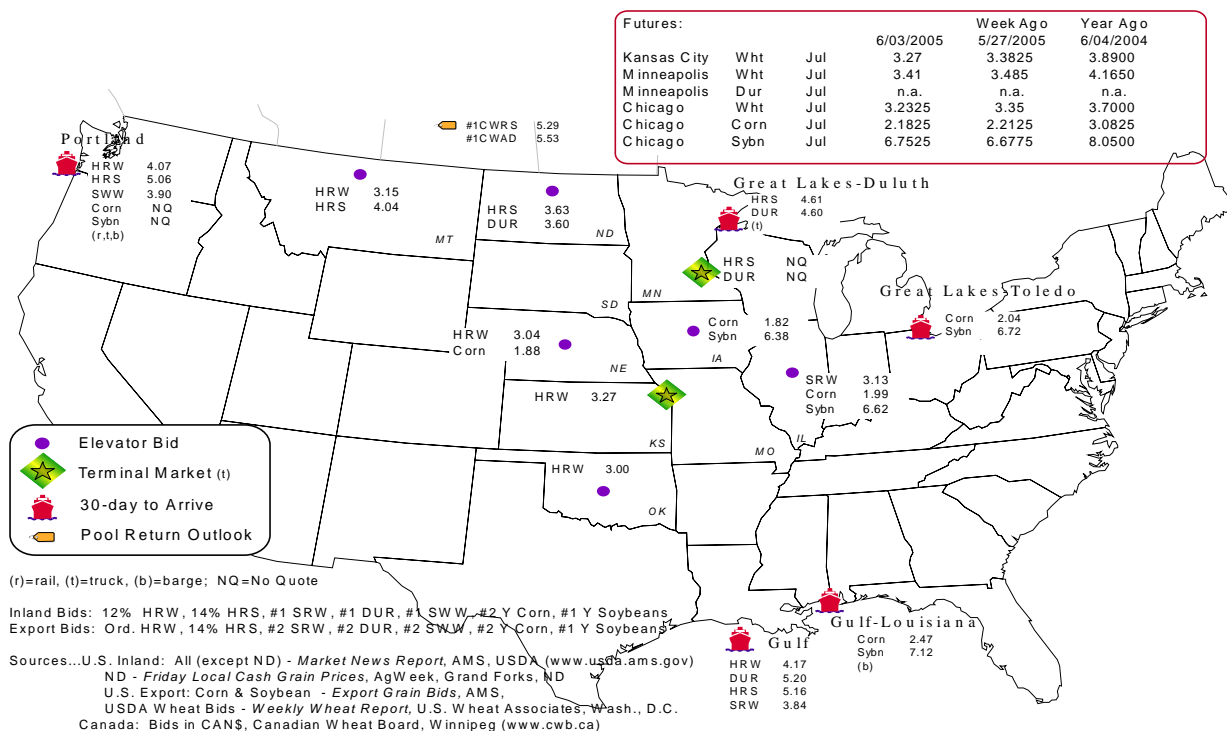
Note: nq = no quote

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **grain bid summary** illustrates the market relationships for commodities. Positive and negative adjustments in differential between terminal and futures markets, and the relationship to inland market points, are indicators of changes in fundamental market supply and demand. The map may be used to monitor market and time differentials.

Figure 1

**Grain bid summary**



# Rail Transportation

**Table 3--Rail deliveries to port (carloads)\***

Week ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Cross-Border Mexico	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total
06/01/2005 <sup>p</sup>	140	756	1,216	4,653	0	6,765
05/25/2005 <sup>r</sup>	25	1,301	2,221	4,477	78	8,102
2005 YTD	5,683	35,727	37,358	99,607	7,150	185,525
2004 YTD	4,223	49,263	22,257	93,533	3,804	173,080
2005 as % of 2004	135	73	168	106	188	107
Total 2004	10,475	92,073	67,992	209,625	10,986	391,151
Total 2003**	14,843	88,194	48,805	157,125	20,509	329,476

(\*) Incomplete Data; as of 9/22/04, Cross-Border movements included; (\*\*) Excludes 53rd week; YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data;

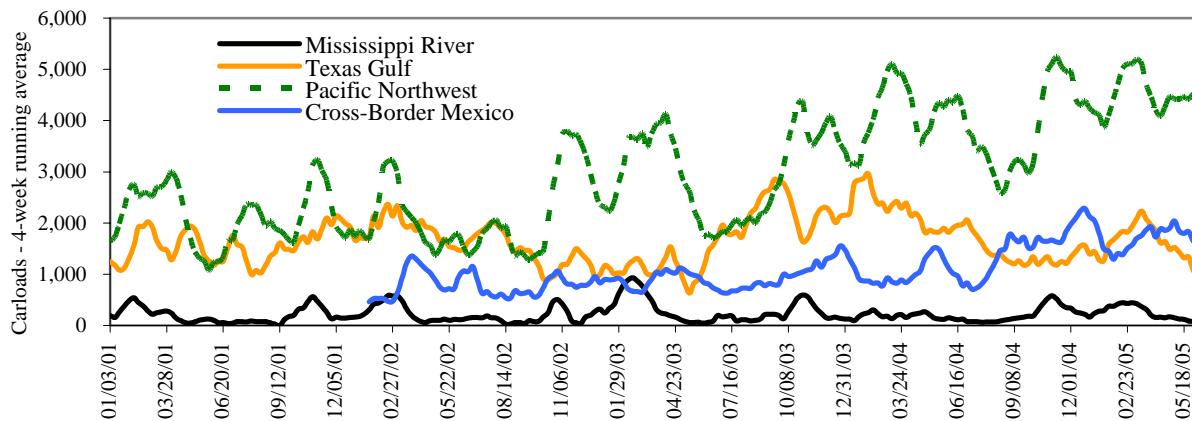
r = revised data

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 40 percent of U.S. grain shipments. Trends in these loadings are indicative of market conditions and expectations.

Figure 2

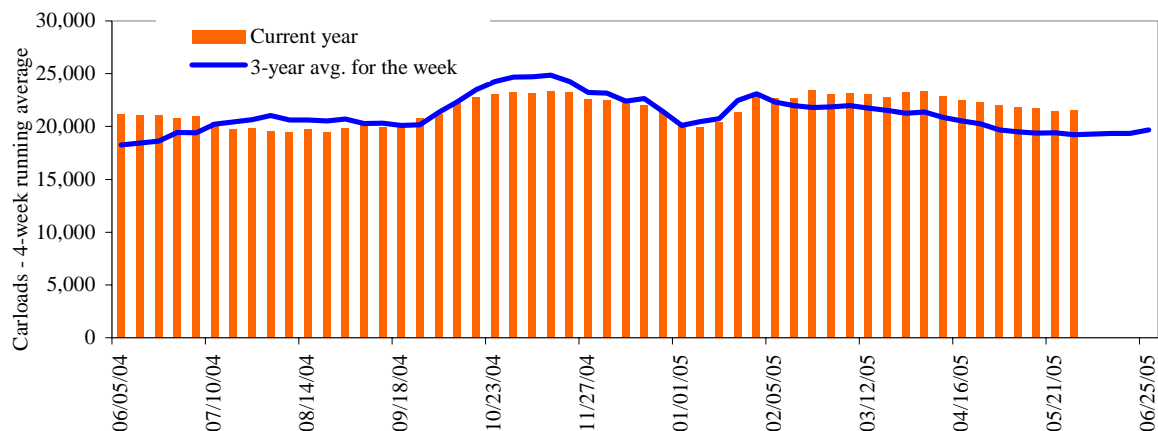
## Rail deliveries to port



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 3

## Total weekly U.S. grain car loadings for Class I railroads



Source: Association of American Railroads

**Table 4--Class I rail carrier grain car bulletin (grain carloads originated)**

Week ending	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
05/28/05	3,271	3,321	8,858	597	5,820	21,867	3,204	4,625
This week last year	2,913	3,410	8,344	400	6,762	21,829	3,777	4,155
2005 YTD	63,912	71,387	197,536	13,288	127,435	473,558	91,013	84,791
2004 YTD	61,372	69,255	191,668	10,755	140,823	473,873	99,419	77,171
2005 as % of 2004	104	103	103	124	90	100	92	110
Total 2004	142,206	169,650	458,587	27,618	327,510	1,125,571	237,664	210,060

Source: Association of American Railroads (www.aar.org); YTD = year-to-date

**Table 5--Rail car auction offerings, week ending 6/04/05 (\$/car)\***

Delivery for:	Jul. 05	Aug. 05	Sep. 05
BNSF <sup>1</sup>			
COT/N. grain	no bid	\$134	\$152
COT/S. grain	no bid	\$23	\$131
UP <sup>2</sup>			
GCAS/Region 1	no bid	no bid	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	no offer	\$1	no offer

\*Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

<sup>1</sup>BNSF - COT = Certificate of Transportation

N includes: ID, MN, MT, ND, OR, SD, WA, WI, WY, and Manitoba, Canada.

S includes: CO, IA, IL, KS, MO, NE, OK, TX, NM, AZ, CA, UT, and NV.

<sup>2</sup>UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

Region 1 includes: AR, IL, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX, WI, and Duluth, MN.

Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

---

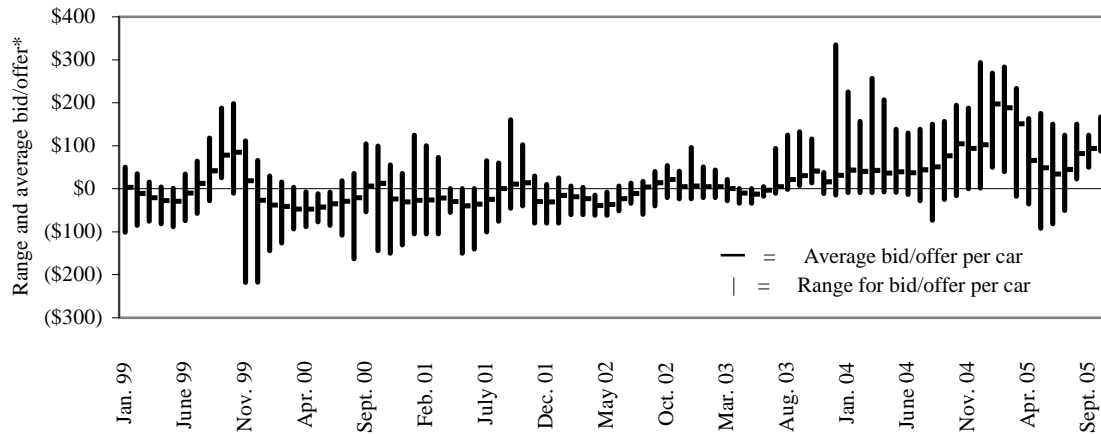
Rail service may be ordered directly from the railroad via **auction** for guaranteed service or tariff for nonguaranteed service or through the secondary market.

---

The **secondary rail market** information reflects trade values for service that was originally purchased from the railroad carrier as some form of guaranteed freight. The **auction and secondary rail** values are indicators of rail service quality and demand/supply.

Figure 4

**Secondary rail car market, delivery month-year**



\*up to 6 months of trading

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Average bid/offer** is the simple average of all the weekly bids/offers over the entire period (up to 6 months) for guaranteed railcars that are traded for delivery in a particular month.

**Range for bid/offer** shows the range of average weekly bids/offers over the entire period (up to 6 months) for guaranteed railcars that are traded for delivery in a particular month.

**Table 6--Weekly secondary rail car market, week ending 6/04/05 (\$/car)\***

	Delivery period			
	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05
BNSF-GF	\$0	\$54	\$96	\$88
Change from last week	-\$50	-\$34	-\$29	n/a
UP-Pool	-\$50	\$33	\$104	\$138
Change from last week	-\$56	-\$33	-\$6	-\$4

\*Average premium/discount to tariff, \$/car-last week

Note: Bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices,

Missing value = no bid quoted; GF = guaranteed freight; Pool = guaranteed pool

Sources: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Data from Atwood/ConAgra, Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

**Table 7--Tariff rail rates for unit and shuttle train shipments\***

<b>Effective date:</b>					
6/6/2005	<b>Origin region</b>	<b>Destination region</b>	<b>Rate/car</b>	<b>Rate/metric ton</b>	<b>Rate/bushel**</b>
<b><u>Unit train*</u></b>					
Wheat	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$1,861	\$20.51	\$0.56
	Kansas City, MO	Galveston, TX	\$2,020	\$22.27	\$0.61
	South Central, KS	Galveston, TX	\$2,335	\$25.74	\$0.70
	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,420	\$26.68	\$0.73
	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	\$2,245	\$24.75	\$0.67
	South Central, ND	Houston, TX	\$3,709	\$40.88	\$1.11
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,198	\$46.27	\$1.26
	South Central, ND	Portland, OR	\$4,198	\$46.27	\$1.26
	Northwest, KS	Portland, OR	\$4,266	\$47.02	\$1.28
	Chicago, IL	Richmond, VA	\$2,002	\$22.07	\$0.60
Corn	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,510	\$27.67	\$0.70
	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,440	\$26.90	\$0.68
	Kansas City, MO	Dalhart, TX	\$1,965	\$21.66	\$0.55
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,600	\$39.68	\$1.01
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$1,791	\$19.74	\$0.50
	Columbus, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$1,700	\$18.74	\$0.48
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	\$3,606	\$39.75	\$1.01
	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,455	\$27.06	\$0.74
Soybeans	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,455	\$27.06	\$0.74
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,610	\$39.79	\$1.08
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$1,791	\$19.74	\$0.54
	Chicago, IL	Raleigh, NC	\$2,391	\$26.36	\$0.72
<b><u>Shuttle Train*</u></b>					
Wheat	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,895	\$20.89	\$0.57
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,898	\$42.97	\$1.17
Corn	Fremont, NE	Houston, TX	\$2,665	\$29.38	\$0.75
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,450	\$38.03	\$0.97
Soybeans	Council Bluffs, IA	Houston, TX	\$2,785	\$30.70	\$0.84
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,410	\$37.59	\$1.02

\*A unit train refers to shipments of at least 52 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of more than 100 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

\*\*Approximate load per car = 100 short tons: corn 56 lbs./bu., wheat & soybeans 60 lbs./bu.

Sources: [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.cpr.ca](http://www.cpr.ca), [www.csx.com](http://www.csx.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com)

**Table 8--Tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to the U.S.-Mexico border**

<b>Effective date:</b>						
6/6/2005	Origin state	Border crossing region	Train size	Rate/car <sup>1</sup>	Rate/metric ton	Rate/bushel**
Wheat	KS	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,851	\$29.13	\$0.79
	ND	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$5,399	\$55.17	\$1.50
	OK	El Paso, TX	Shuttle	\$2,264	\$23.13	\$0.63
	OK	El Paso, TX	Unit	\$2,432	\$24.85	\$0.68
	AR	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$2,383	\$24.35	\$0.66
	IL	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$3,188	\$32.57	\$0.89
	MT	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$4,190*	\$42.81	\$1.16
	TX	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$1,993*	\$20.36	\$0.55
	MO	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$2,731	\$27.90	\$0.76
	WI	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$3,405	\$34.79	\$0.95
Corn	NE	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$3,104	\$31.72	\$0.80
	NE	Brownsville, TX	Unit	\$3,645*	\$37.24	\$0.95
	IA	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$3,334	\$34.07	\$0.86
	MO	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$3,040*	\$31.06	\$0.79
	NE	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$3,440*	\$35.15	\$0.89
	IA	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$3,258	\$33.29	\$0.84
Soybean	IA	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,880	\$29.43	\$0.80
	MN	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$3,176	\$32.45	\$0.88
	NE	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,688	\$27.47	\$0.75
	NE	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$2,765	\$28.25	\$0.77
	IA	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$2,918	\$29.82	\$0.81

A unit train refers to shipments of at least 52 cars. Shuttle train are available for qualified shipments of more than 100 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

<sup>1</sup>Rates are based upon published tariff rates for high-capacity rail cars.

\*High-capacity rate not available, rate estimated using published low-capacity tariff rate x 1.08

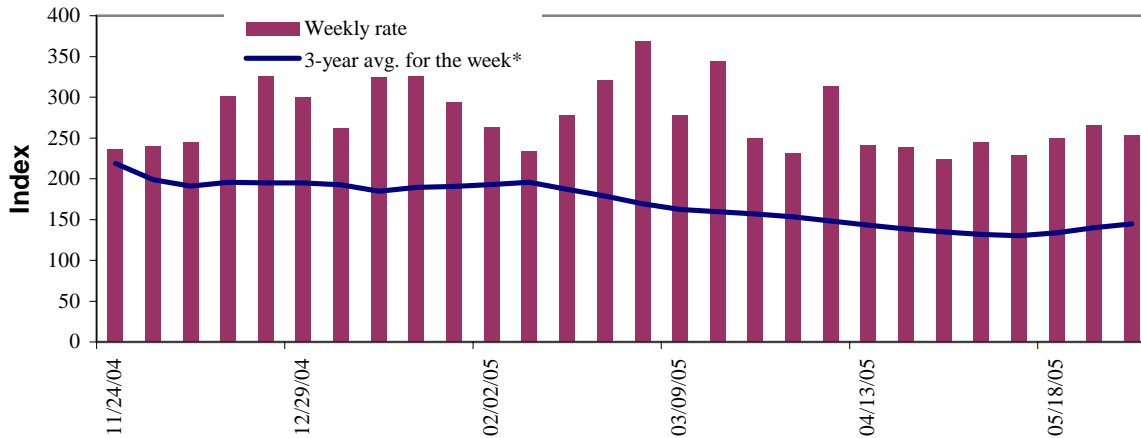
\*\*Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com

# Barge Transportation

Figure 5

**Illinois River barge rate index - quotes**



Note: Index = percent of tariff rate; \*4-week moving average

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **Illinois River barge rate index** averaged 183 percent of the **benchmark tariff rates** between 1999 and 2001, based on weekly market quotes. The **index**, along with **rate quotes** and **futures market bids** are indicators of grain transport supply and demand.

**Table 9--Barge rate quotes: southbound barge freight**

Location	6/1/2005	5/25/2005	July '05	Sept. '05
Twin Cities	282	289	292	336
Mid-Mississippi	264	274	277	323
Illinois River	253	265	269	321
St. Louis	188	194	216	307
Lower Ohio	183	184	218	311
Cairo-Memphis	174	178	205	311

Index = percent of tariff, based on 1976 tariff benchmark rate

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

**Benchmark tariff rates**

## Calculating barge rate per ton:

(Index \* 1976 tariff benchmark rate per ton)/100

Select applicable index from market quotes included in tables on this page. The 1976 benchmark rates per ton are provided in map (see figure 6).

Note: The Illinois barge rate is for Beardstown, IL, La Grange Lock & Dam

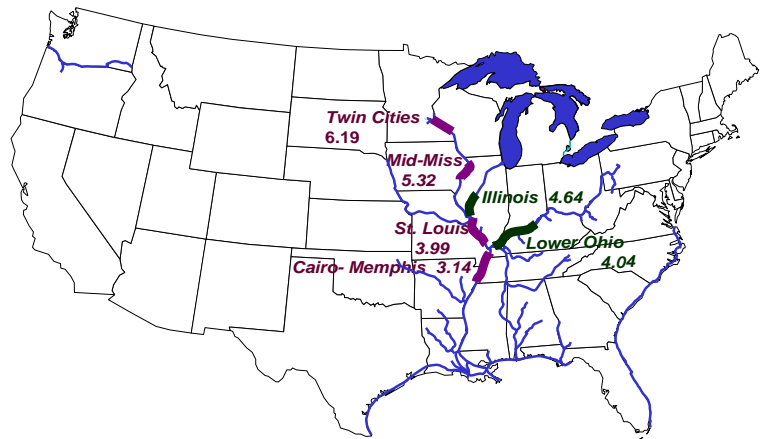
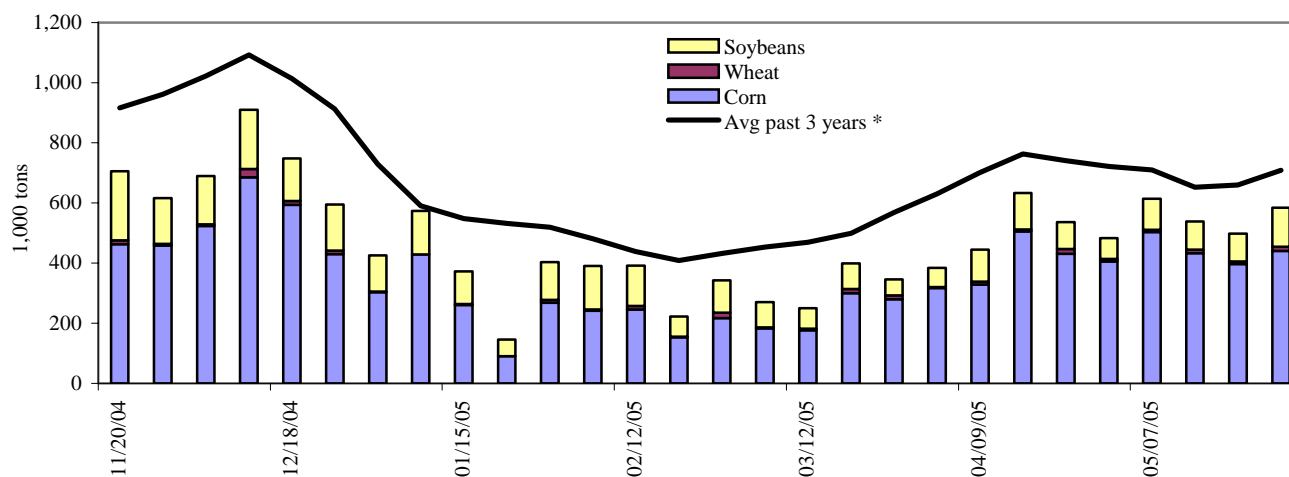




Figure 7

**Barge movements on the Mississippi River (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)**

\* 4-week moving average

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Table 10--Barge grain movements (1,000 tons)**

Week ending 5/28/2005	Corn	Wheat	Soybean	Other	Total
<b>Mississippi River</b>					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	157	14	37	0	207
Winfield, MO (L25)	11	3	6	0	20
Alton, IL (L26)	457	14	130	0	601
Granite City, IL (L27)	440	14	130	0	583
<b>Illinois River (L8)</b>	181	5	30	0	215
<b>Ohio River (L52)</b>	70	2	9	21	101
<b>Arkansas River (L1)</b>	0	14	7	0	21
2005 YTD	8,487	635	3,300	323	12,745
2004 YTD	9,811	1,090	2,208	339	13,448
2005 as % of 2004 YTD	87	58	149	95	95
Total 2004	26,235	2,701	6,784	843	36,563

YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1.

"Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

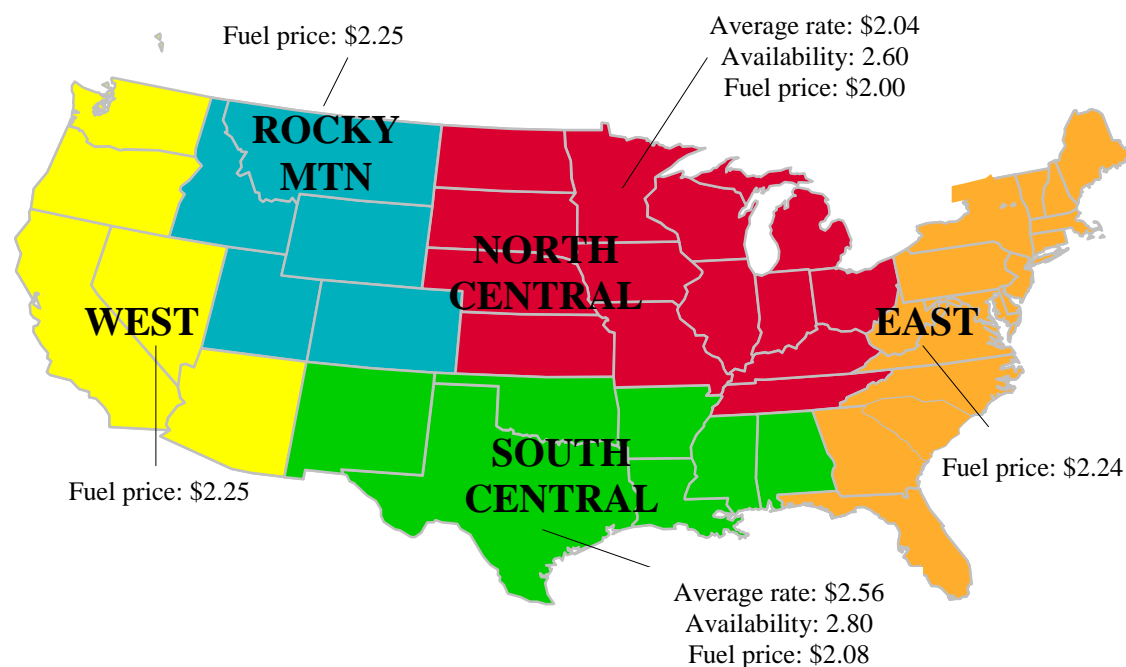
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers ([www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrmi/omni/webprts/default.asp](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrmi/omni/webprts/default.asp))

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

# Truck Transportation

Figure 8

U.S. grain truck market advisory, 1st quarter 2005\*



\*Average rate per loaded mile, based on truck rates for trips of 25, 100, and 200 miles

Note: Fuel prices are a quarterly average (unit per gallon)

Fuel price data source: Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)

Table 11--U.S. grain truck market overview, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2005

Region/commodity*	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	Truck availability	Truck activity	Future truck activity
	Rate per mile			Rating compared to same quarter last year		
				1=Very easy to 5=Very difficult	1=Much lower to 5=Much higher	
<b>National average<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>North Central region<sup>2</sup></b>	2.65	1.89	1.59	2.6	2.8	3.1
Corn	3.25	2.37	2.01	2.9	2.4	3.1
Wheat	1.52	1.44	1.39	2.6	2.9	2.9
Soybean	3.25	2.37	2.01	2.7	2.7	3.2
<b>South Central region<sup>2</sup></b>	3.34	2.25	2.08	2.8	2.1	2.4
Corn	3.02	2.19	1.98	2.8	2.0	2.0
Wheat	3.13	2.18	2.08	3.0	2.3	2.7
Soybean	4.71	2.32	2.06	2.3	2.0	2.3

Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lb weight limit

\*Commodity averages based on truck rates for top producing states based on National Agricultural Statistics Service/USDA

<sup>1</sup>National average includes: AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MN, MS, ND, NE, OH, OK, OR, SD, TX, and WA.

<sup>2</sup>Commodity rates per mile include the average of the top 3 producing states within the region.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **weekly diesel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for truck grain movements, accounting for 37 percent of the estimated variable cost.

**Table 12--Retail on-highway diesel prices\*, week ending 06/06/05 (US\$/gallon)**

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	2.263	0.075	0.563
	New England	2.353	0.033	0.537
	Central Atlantic	2.343	0.059	0.551
	Lower Atlantic	2.221	0.087	0.572
II	Midwest	2.198	0.087	0.523
III	Gulf Coast	2.213	0.096	0.558
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.191	0.012	0.270
V	West Coast	2.339	0.022	0.276
	California	2.421	0.054	0.300
Total	U.S.	2.234	0.074	0.500

\*Diesel fuel prices include all taxes.

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy ([www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov))

# Grain Exports

**Table 13--U.S. export balances (1,000 metric tons)**

Week ending 1/	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
5/26/2005	491	94	515	194	57	1,351	6,668	1,562	9,581
This week year ago	665	206	360	224	28	1,484	9,450	1,130	12,064
Cumulative exports-crop year 2/									
2004/05 YTD	9,407	3,217	8,033	4,773	686	26,117	33,575	27,675	87,367
2003/04 YTD	12,697	3,785	6,928	4,895	1,053	29,359	35,759	22,894	88,012
2004/05 as % of 2003/04	74	85	116	98	65	89	94	121	99
2003/04 Total	12,697	3,785	6,928	4,889	1,053	29,353	47,704	24,102	101,159
2002/03 Total	6,896	2,899	6,645	3,517	720	20,677	39,646	28,908	89,231

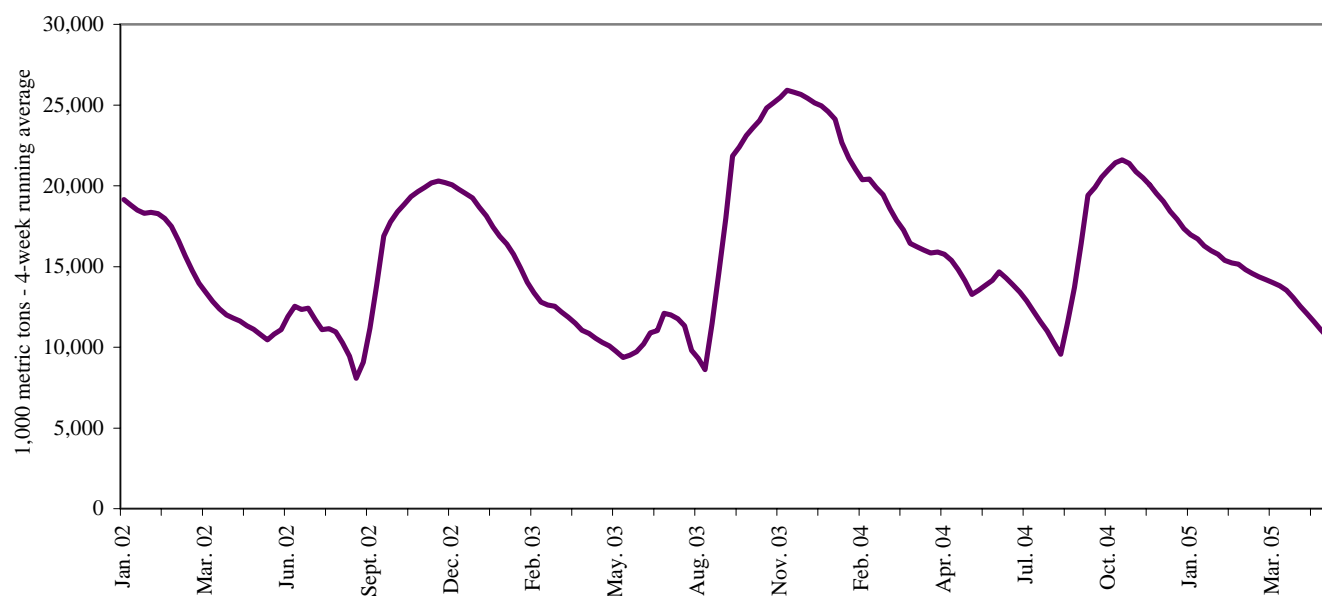
Note: YTD = year-to-date. Crop year: wheat = 6/01-5/31, corn & soybeans = 9/01-8/31, 1/ = Current outstanding unshipped export sales to date

2/ = Crop year ends for wheat

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov))

Figure 9

**U.S. grain, unshipped export balance, including wheat, corn, and soybean sales**



Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov))

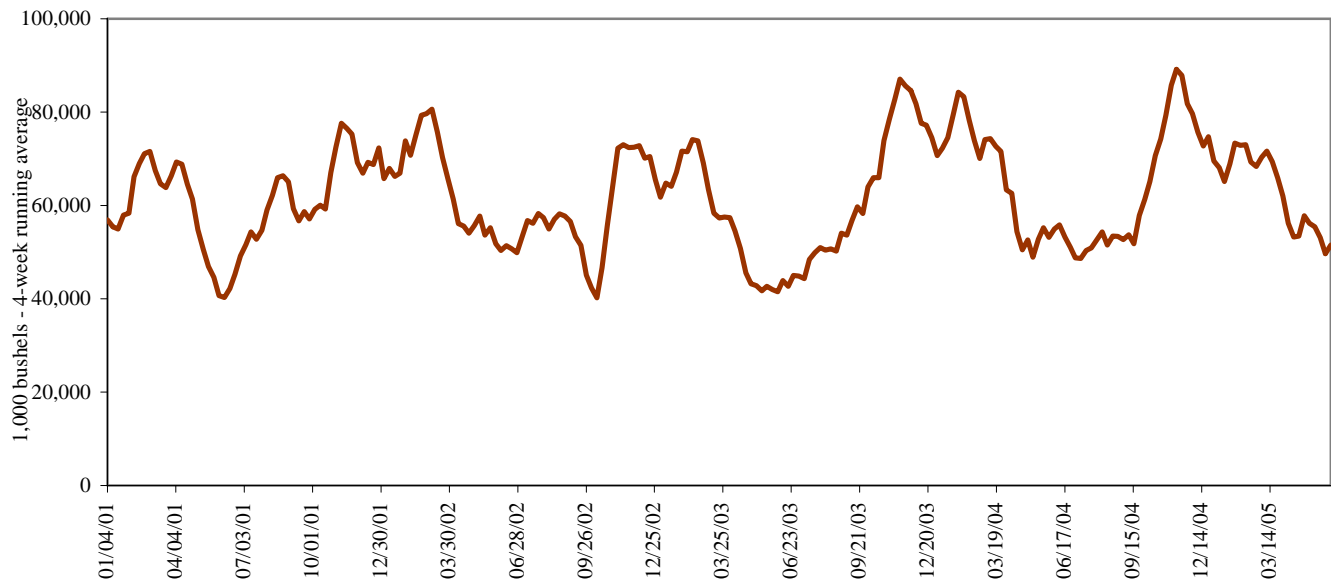
**Table 14--Select U.S. port regions - grain inspections for export (1,000 metric tons)**

Week ending	Pacific Region			Mississippi Gulf			Texas Gulf			Port Region total		
	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Pacific	Mississippi	Texas
06/02/05	219	285	16	91	474	70	135	0	0	520	636	135
2005 YTD	4,594	4,114	3,138	2,285	11,343	7,691	2,472	262	6	11,846	21,318	2,740
2004 YTD	4,874	4,503	1,759	3,196	13,626	5,744	4,254	49	14	11,136	22,567	4,318
2005 as % of 2004	94	91	178	71	83	134	58	531	43	106	94	63
2004 Total *	12,121	9,741	4,753	7,154	32,851	15,540	7,936	131	23	26,615	55,546	8,089

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service/USDA ([www.usda.gov/gipsa](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa)); YTD: year-to-date; \* includes 53rd week

The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, it includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Approximately 55 percent of these U.S. export grain shipments departed through the Mississippi Gulf region in 2004.

Figure 10

**U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)**

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service/USDA ([www.usda.gov/gipsa](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa))

# Ocean Transportation

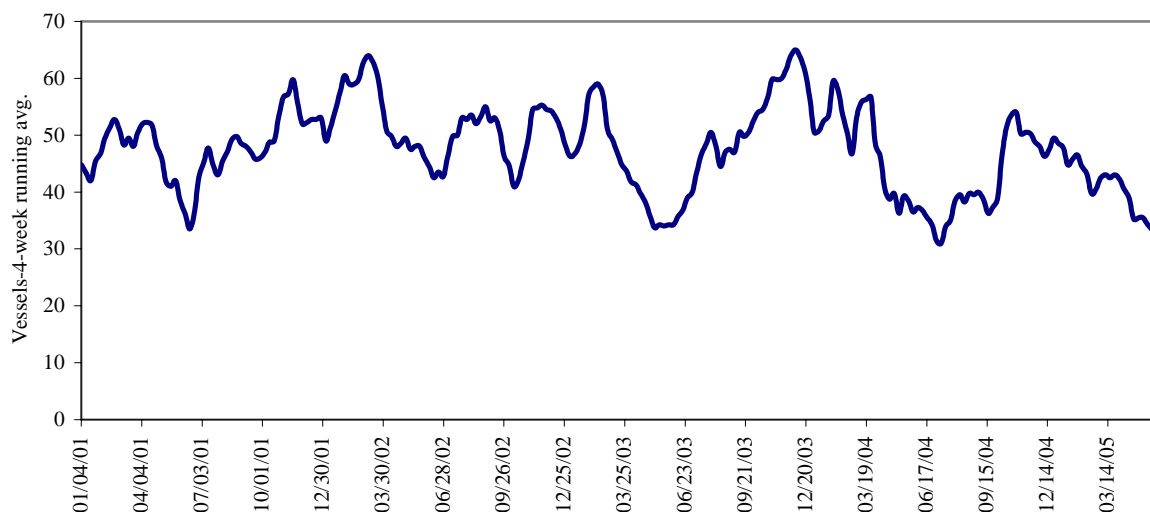
**Table 15--Weekly port region grain ocean vessel activity (number of vessels)**

Date	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
6/2/2005	20	30	44	6	12
5/26/2005	16	35	48	7	9
2004 range	(10..43)	(25..73)	(38..96)	(4..16)	(0..18)
2004 avg.	24	45	61	9	6

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 11

**Gulf Port grain vessel loading (past 7 days)**



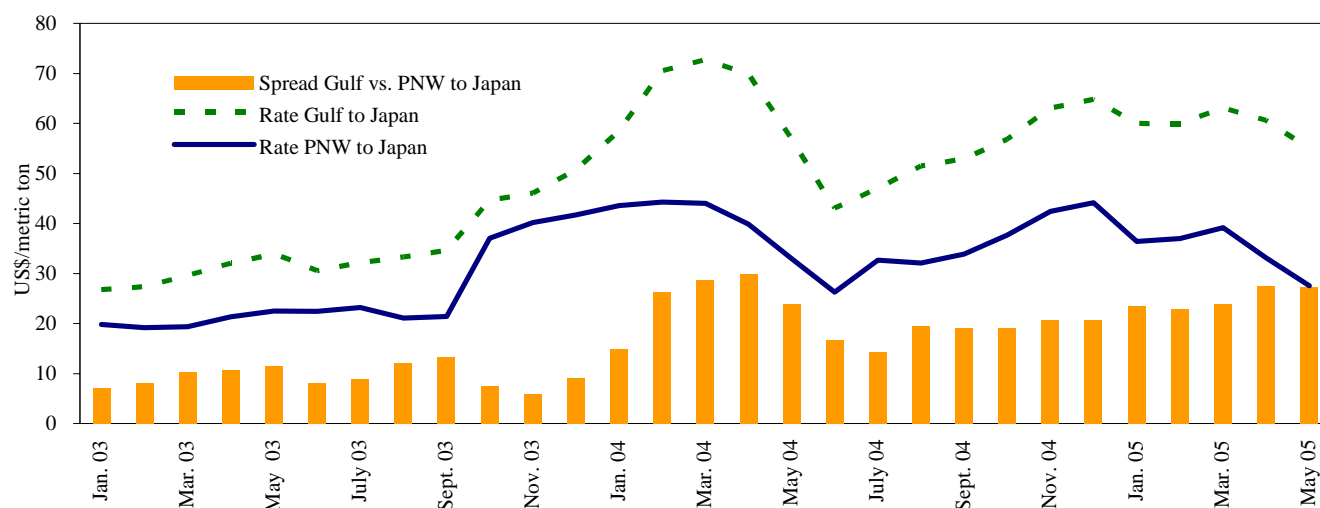
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Table 16--Quarterly ocean freight rates (average rates & percentage changes) (US\$/metric ton)**

Countries/ regions	2005 1st qtr	2004 1st qtr	Percent change	Countries/ regions	2005 1st qtr	2004 1st qtr	Percent change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$60.18	\$73.75	-18	Japan	---	---	---
China	\$57.50	\$46.63	23	<b>Argentina/Brazil to</b>			
Taiwan	---	\$68.00	---	N. Africa	\$59.25	\$61.07	-3
N. Africa	\$48.00	\$46.25	4	China	---	---	---
Med. Sea	---	\$46.50	---				

Source: Maritime Research, Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

Figure 12

**Grain vessel rates, U.S. to Japan**

Source: Baltic Exchange (www.balticexchange.com)

**Table 17--Ocean freight rates for selected shipments, week ending 06/04/05**

Export region	Import region	Grain	Month	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	Djibouti*	Wheat	Jun 1/10	22,740	89.29
U.S. Gulf	Honduras	Wheat	May 11/21	9,330	39.99
U.S. Gulf	Eritrea	Wheat	May 12/22	4,240	78.00
U.S. Gulf	Nicaragua	Wheat	May 10/20	3,790	49.00
PNW	Kenya	Wheatflour	Mar 5/15	34,000	74.00
Ukraine	Morocco	Wheat	May 9/10	24,000	27.50
River Plate	Tuekey	Soybean	Jun 1/8	20,000	49.00

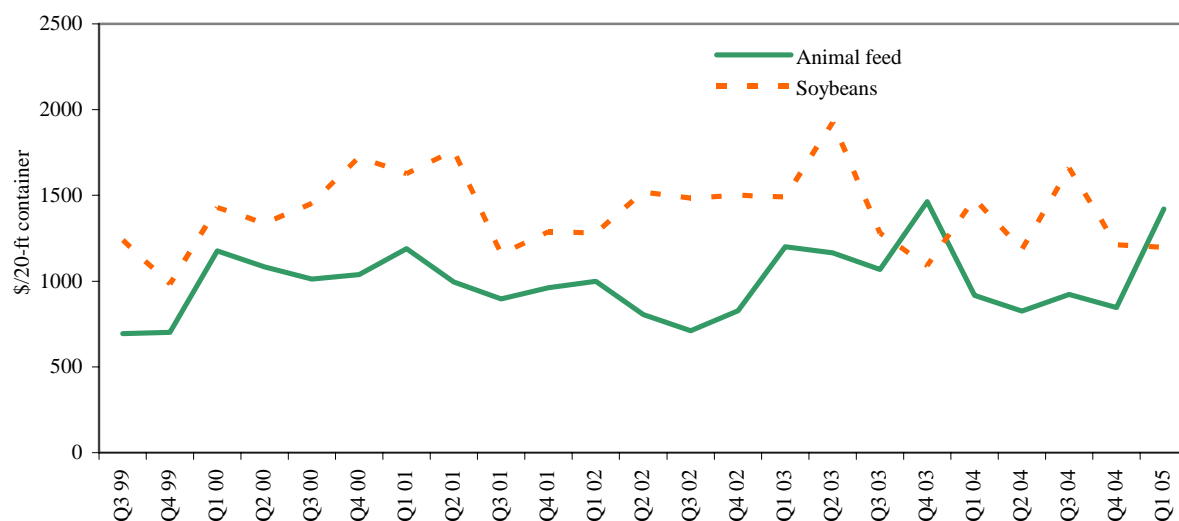
Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

\*Most food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S. flag vessels. The vessels are limited in availability resulting in higher rates. In addition, destinations receiving food aid generally lack adequate port unloading facilities, requiring the vessel to remain in port for a longer duration than normal.

Source: Maritime Research Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

Figure 13

**Weighted average rates<sup>1</sup> for containerized shipments of animal feed and soybeans to selected Asian countries**



<sup>1</sup> Animal Feed: Busan-Korea (22%), Kaohsiung-Taiwan (28%), Tokyo-Japan (38%), Hong Kong (9%), Bangkok-Thailand (3%) and soybeans: Busan-Korea (1%), Keelung-Taiwan (81%), Tokyo-Japan (12%), Bangkok-Thailand (4%), Hong Kong (1%)

Quarter 1, 2005.

Source: Ocean Rate Bulletin, Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

---

Container ocean freight rates – average rate per twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) weighted by shipping line market share and trade route.

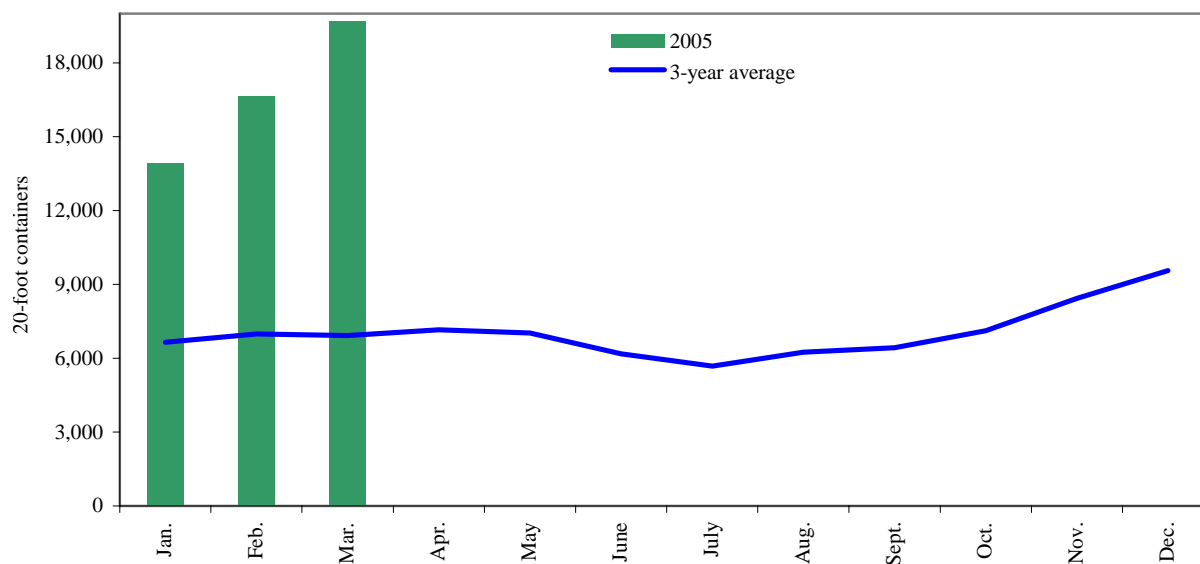
---

The percentage of U.S. grain exported in containers was 3 percent in 2004.

---

Figure 14

**Monthly shipments of containerized grain to Asia for 2005 compared with a 3-year average**



Source: Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS), *Journal of Commerce*

Note: PIERS data is available with a lag of approximately 40 days



# Brazil Transportation

Figure 15  
Routes and Regions considered in the Brazilian soybean export transportation indicator<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Regions comprised 84 percent of Brazilian soybean production, 2003  
Source: ESALQ/USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil) and USDA/AMS

**Table 18--Truck rates for selected Brazilian soybean export transportation routes, 1st quarter 2005**

Route #	Origin <sup>1</sup> (reference city)	Destination	Distance (miles) <sup>2</sup>	Weight(%) <sup>3</sup>	Freight price (per 100 miles) <sup>4</sup>
1	Northwest RS <sup>5</sup> (Cruz Alta)	Rio Grande	288	16.6	4.46
2	North MT(Sorriso)	Santos	1190	10.1	5.86
3	North MT(Sorriso)	Paranaguá	1262	9.5	5.54
4	South GO(Rio Verde)	Santos	587	7.0	4.40
5	South GO(Rio Verde)	Paranaguá	726	5.6	3.79
6	North Center PR(Londrina)	Paranaguá	268	4.4	7.19
7	Western Center PR(Mamborê)	Paranaguá	311	3.9	5.22
8	Triangle MG(Uberaba)	Santos	339	3.8	7.28
9	West PR(Assis Chateaubriand)	Paranaguá	377	3.7	5.83
10	West Extreme BA(São Desidério)	Ilhéus	544	3.6	6.53
11	Southeast MT(Primavera do Leste)	Santos	901	3.6	6.18
12	Southeast MT(Primavera do Leste)	Paranaguá	975	3.3	6.22
13	Southwest MS(Maracaju)	Paranaguá	612	3.1	5.78
14	Southwest MS(Maracaju)	Santos	652	2.9	5.84
15	West PR(Assis Chateaubriand)	Santos	550	2.5	6.18
16	Western Center RS(Tupanciretã)	Rio Grande	273	2.4	5.03
17	Southwest PR(Chopinzinho)	Paranaguá	291	2.3	6.00
18	Eastern Center PR(Castro)	Paranaguá	130	2.3	10.20
19	South Center PR(Guarapuava)	Paranaguá	204	2.1	8.39
20	North Center MS(São Gabriel do Oeste)	Santos	720	2.0	5.39
21	Ribeirão Preto SP(Guairá)	Santos	314	1.5	6.38
22	Northeast MT(Canarana)	Santos	950	1.4	6.66
23	Assis SP(Palmital)	Santos	285	1.2	6.16
24	Northeast MT(Canarana)	Paranaguá	1075	1.2	5.90
<b>Average</b>			<b>626</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.67</b>

<sup>1</sup>Although each origin region comprises several cities, the main city is considered as a reference to establish the freight price

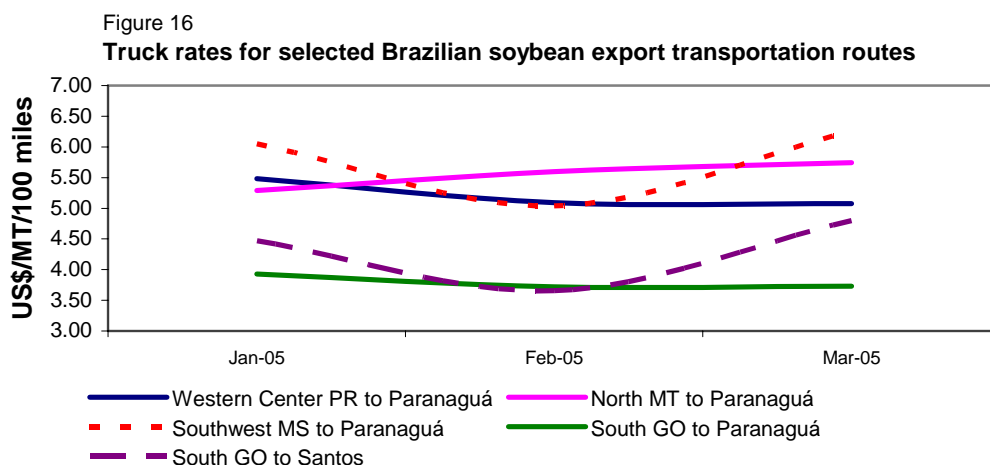
<sup>2</sup>Distance from the main city of the considered region to the mentioned ports

<sup>3</sup>The weight is directly proportional to the amount of production in each region

<sup>4</sup>US\$ per metric ton (average monthly exchange rate from "Banco Central do Brasil" was used to convert Brazilian reais to the U.S. dollar)

<sup>5</sup>RS = Rio Grande Do Sul, MT= Mato Grosso, GO = Goiás, PR = Paraná, MG = Minas Gerais, BA = Bahia, MS = Mato Grosso Do Sul, SP = São Paulo

Source: ESALQ/USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil) and USDA/AMS



**Table 19--Monthly Brazilian soybean export truck transportation cost index**

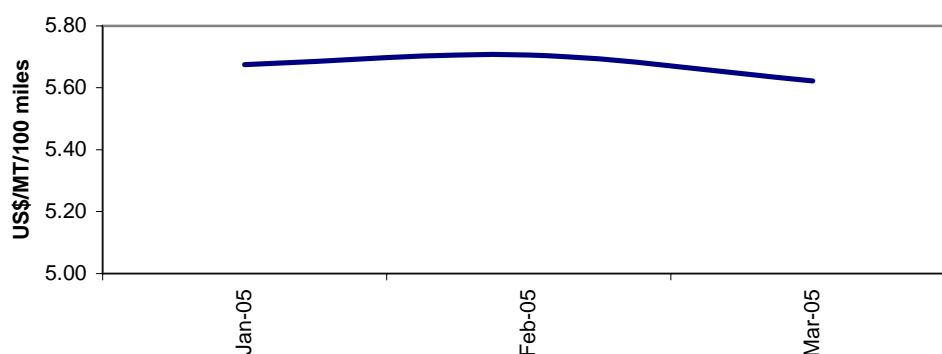
Month	Freight price* (per 100 miles)	Index variation (%) (Base: prior month)	Index value (Base: Jan. 05 = 100)
Jan. 05	5.67		100.00
Feb. 05	5.71	0.5	100.54
Mar. 05	5.62	-1.5	99.08

\*weighted average and quoted in US\$ per metric ton

Source: ESALQ/USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil) and USDA/AMS

Figure 17

**Brazilian soybean export truck transportation weighted average prices, 2005**



Source: ESALQ/USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil) and USDA/AMS

**Table 20--Quarterly ocean freight rates for shipping soybeans from selected Brazilian ports to Hamburg, Germany (US\$/metric ton)\***

Ports	2005 1st qtr
Santos	\$45.53
Paranagua	\$44.64
Rio Grande	\$44.20

\*correspond to the average actual values negotiated between shippers and carriers and weighted according to the magnitude of the shipped volumes

Source: Sistema de Informações de Fretes, SIFRECA, ESALQ/USP (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

# Contacts and Links

## Contact Information

Coordinator		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	<a href="mailto:surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov">surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-1328
Grain Transportation Indicators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	<a href="mailto:surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov">surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-1328
Rail		
Marvin Prater	<a href="mailto:marvin.prater@usda.gov">marvin.prater@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-6290
Johnny Hill	<a href="mailto:johnny.hill@usda.gov">johnny.hill@usda.gov</a>	(202) 720-4211
Barge Transportation		
Karl Hacker	<a href="mailto:karl.hacker@usda.gov">karl.hacker@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-0152
Nicholas Marathon	<a href="mailto:nick.marathon@usda.gov">nick.marathon@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-0331
Truck Transportation		
Karl Hacker	<a href="mailto:karl.hacker@usda.gov">karl.hacker@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-0152
John Batson	<a href="mailto:john.batson@usda.gov">john.batson@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-1312
Grain Exports		
Johnny Hill	<a href="mailto:johnny.hill@usda.gov">johnny.hill@usda.gov</a>	(202) 720-4211
Ocean Transportation		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo (Freight rates and vessels)	<a href="mailto:surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov">surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-1328
April Taylor (Container rates)	<a href="mailto:april.taylor@usda.gov">april.taylor@usda.gov</a>	(202) 690-1326
Johnny Hill (Vessels)	<a href="mailto:johnny.hill@usda.gov">johnny.hill@usda.gov</a>	(202) 720-4211

**Subscription Information:** To subscribe to the GTR for a weekly email copy, please contact Deen Olowolayemo at [surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov](mailto:surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov) or 202-690-1328 (1303) (*printed copies are also available upon request*).

## Related Websites

<i>Agricultural Container Indicators</i>	<a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd2/agci/">http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd2/agci/</a>
<i>Ocean Rate Bulletin</i>	<a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/Ocean/index.asp">http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/Ocean/index.asp</a>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.